

Fuelwood Information for the Rio Grande National Forest

- This is an informational supplement. You must follow the conditions of your permit.

Before transporting fuelwood you must:

- Have your fuelwood permit with you, be familiar with and follow the legal requirements on the permit and load tag.
- Remove the specific month and day of the fuelwood removal from each load tag.
- Record quantity on the load tag and securely attach the load tag to the back of the load in a clearly visible location. Ensure your recorded quantity matches the quantity reported on the permit.
- Record the date, time, and quantity removed on the Product Quantity Removal Record on your permit.

What fuelwood can you take?

- Your permit is for dead trees; do not cut live trees.
- Do not cut trees marked with paint, plastic ribbon, and/or signs.
- Dead trees provide important habitat for many species. Do not cut trees that have bird cavities or holes, nests, or show wildlife signs.
- Any wood larger than 7 inches in diameter at either end must be cut into 6-foot lengths or less.

Where can you cut fuelwood?

- Your permit is for removing fuelwood anywhere on the Rio Grande National Forest EXCEPT for the following locations:
 - A timber sale or contract areas posted with signs.
 - Areas signed on the ground as being closed to wood cutting.
 - Wilderness areas, research natural areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, resorts, recreation management areas, wilderness study areas, or administrative sites.
 - Within 100ft of riparian and, wet areas, and bodies of water.

Purchasing Fuelwood Permits

- Fuelwood costs \$10 per cord. There is a minimum purchase of \$20, 2 cords. Each household may purchase up to 20 cords of wood per year. Permits are valid until the end of the year, December 31.

How do you access fuelwood?

- Stay on designated roads identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map.
- Do not drive off roads in areas closed to motorized travel.
- Roads may be closed due to weather conditions.
- Vehicle travel is permitted for a driven distance of 300 feet off an open road, only if resource damage will not occur.
- Do not drive off roads during wet or muddy conditions.
- Damaging the forest floor, vegetation, riparian areas, or road surfaces is prohibited.

How should you clean up where you were working?

- Cut all stumps to less than 6 inches high.
- Reduce slash to 24 inches in height or less. Do not block or leave slash on roads, shoulders, or in ditches. It blocks culverts and will cause water damage to roads.
- You must remove all trash and litter resulting from your activities.

How much is a cord?

- A cord of wood is the volume of a stack 4 ft tall, by 4 ft wide by 8 ft long.
- An average half-ton pickup truck with a full-size bed can carry half a cord of dry firewood when filled up to the sides of the truck. If the pickup truck has sideboards is filled up to the top of the side boards, it will carry approximately one cord of wood. A pickup with a short bed will be able to carry less.

The following information is part of a table containing fuelwood characteristics for each species of tree.

Tree species	Range of lbs. per cord	Approximate BTU per lbs.	How it Splits	Sparks produced
Aspen	2000 to 2300	8400	Easy	Few
Cottonwood	1840 to 2210	8300	Hard	Few
Douglas Fir	2620 to 3140	9200	Easy	Moderate
Oak	3560 to 4280	8400	Hard	Few
Pinyon	3000 to 3600	11100	Hard	Many
Ponderosa	2100 to 2520	9100	Easy	Moderate
Spruce	1840 to 2210	8100	Easy	Many

The weight was figured at 12% moisture content for air dried wood to determine range of lbs. per cord
 BTU is a unit of heat, the amount of energy it takes to increase 1 lb. of water 1° Fahrenheit

Refer to your permit for further information. You can also call or visit your local Rio Grande National Forest office.

Divide Ranger District

Phone: 719-657-3321

Address: 13308 W. Hwy 160, Del Norte, CO 81132

Divide District - Creede open for the summer season only

Phone: 719-658-2556

Address: 304 South Main St., Creede, CO 81130

Conejos Peak Ranger District

Phone: 719-274-8971

Address: 15571 County Rd. T.5, La Jara, CO 81140

Saguache Ranger District

Phone: 719-655-2547

Address: 46525 State Hwy 114, Saguache, CO 81149

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